(b) whether it is also a fact that the said imported equipment has been installed in a Press at Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh) which does not belong to Indian Express Newspapers thereby violating import regulations; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Government have no such information.

(c) The matter is being investigated.

Employees in shops and establishments

2320. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law for governing and regulating the conditions of work of persons employed in shops and establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring about a separate legislation to improve the service conditions of such employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware that salaries paid to these workers are meagre and no DA or HRA etc. is being paid to them; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) There is no Central legislation governing and regulating the conditions of work of persons employed in shops and establishments as such. The State Governments have framed their respective laws on this subject. There is no proposal under Government's consideration to bring about a separate Central legislation in respect of such employees.

The State Shops and Establishments Acts, *inter alia*, regulate payment of wages and other allowances to the workers employed in shops and establishments. The implementation of these Acts is with the respective State Governments.

Permission to Tamil Nadu Government for road link between Tamil Nadu and Kerala

2321. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have requested Central Government for giving permission to have road link at Ramakkal Mettu and Chakalathu Mettu between Tamil Nadu and Kerala through the forest area of these places;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) whether Government will expedite the matter in the interest of the two neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint ventures in experimental fishing etc.

2322. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the companies/corporations which applied for permission during 1985 for joint ventures in experimental fishing and fresh chartering of foreign fishing boats which have since been given permission;

(b) if no permission has been given what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many applications have been received from Companies Corporations for the purpose, statewise, during 1985 and 1986 and how many of them have been permitted stating the names, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) According to Ministry of Agriculture, 41 fresh applications for chartering of foreign fishing vessels were received during 1985 and 1986, but these were not considered for approval as the policy was under review. The revised policy on charter was announced in Jan., 1987 which *inter-alia* clarified that applications submitted under the earlier policy would be treated as rejected and closed.

No application for joint venture in deep sea fishing was received during 1985 and 1986

High powered Authority to advise on National Conservation Strategy

2323. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to constitute a high powered authority to advise on national conservation strategy in the country;

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference; and

(c) by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The details of an Environment Protection Authority, which, among other things, may advise Government on National Conservation Strategy, are being worked out.

P.M.'s Letter regarding merger of Punjab and Haryana

†2323-A. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has written a letter to the Governor of Punjab, Shri S. S. Ray to work out the legal and other modalities regarding merger of Punjab and Haryana into one single State; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Editor of Economic and Political weekly

‡2323-B. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have charge-sheeted the Editor of the "Economic and Political Weekly" under Section 124(A) and 505(1)(B) of the I.P.C.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have examined the said charges; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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†Previously Unstarred Question 2708 transferred from the 19th March, 1987.

‡Previously Unstarred Question 2608 transferred from the 19th March, 1987.